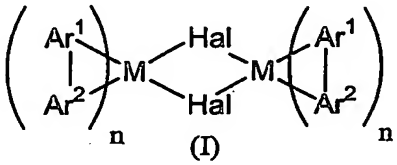
IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1[]. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a metal complex of formula $M(Ar^1Ar^2)_nL$ comprising the step of reacting a compound of formula (I) with a bidentate ligand L:



(I)

wherein Ar^1 and Ar^2 are each independently an optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl; Ar^1-Ar^2 forms at least one carbon-M bond by reaction of M with a carbanion of Ar^1-Ar^2; L is a compound of formula Ar^1-Ar^2; M is iridium, rhodium, platinum or palladium; Hal is a halogen; and n is a number form 1-3 having a value necessary to satisfy the valency of metal M,

~~characterized in that the reaction is performed~~ in the presence of an enabling ligand that is capable of breaking the halogen bridge of the compound of formula (I).

2[]. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein Hal is bromine, chlorine or iodine~~, preferably chlorine~~.

3[]. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein Ar^1-Ar^2 is phenylpyridine.

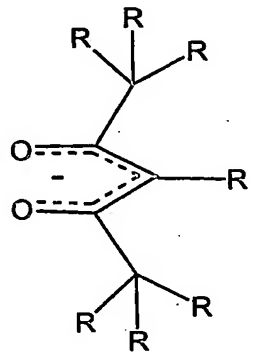
4[]. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein Ar^1-Ar^2 and L are the same.

5[]. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein Ar^1-Ar^2 and L are different.

6[]. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the enabling ligand is a monodentate ligand.

7[]. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 6 wherein the monodentate ligand is selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted pyridine and triarylphosphine.

8[]. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1-5~~ claim 1 wherein the enabling ligand is a bidentate ligand of formula (IIb):



(IIb)

wherein each R is independently selected from the group consisting of H ~~or~~ and a substituent.

9[]. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 8 ~~wherein~~ comprising forming the ligand of formula (IIb) ~~is formed~~ by ~~treatment of~~ treating a corresponding protonated compound with a metal-free base.

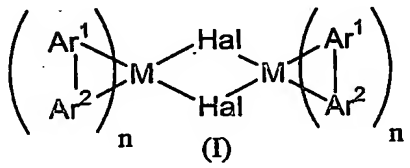
10[]. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 8 ~~or 9~~ wherein each R is hydrogen.

11[]. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a metal complex of formula $M(Ar^1Ar^2)_nL$ comprising a first step of preparing a compound of formula (I) by reacting a compound of formula $M(Hal)_m$ with a compound of Ar^1-Ar^2 and a second step according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein m is a number necessary to satisfy the valency of M, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising performing the first and second steps ~~are performed~~ in a one-pot process.

12[]. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim ~~wherein the~~ 1 comprising performing reaction ~~is performed~~ in a protic solvent~~, preferably ethylene glycol~~.

13[]. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a metal complex comprising:

a) a first step of reacting a compound of formula $M(Hal)_m$ with a compound of formula Ar^1-Ar^2 to form a compound of formula (I):



(I)

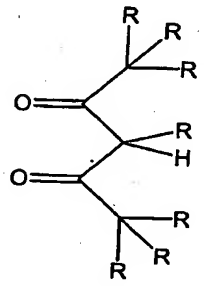
and

b) a second step of reacting the compound of formula (I) with a reactive ligand that is capable of breaking the halogen bridge of the compound of formula (I)

wherein Ar^1 and Ar^2 are each independently an optionally substituted aryl of heteroaryl; Ar^1-Ar^2 forms at least one carbon-M bond by reaction of M with a carbanion of Ar^1-Ar^2; L is a compound of formula Ar^1-Ar^2; M is iridium, rhodium, platinum or palladium; Hal is a halogen; m is a number from 2-8 and n is a number from 1-3, m and n each having a value necessary to satisfy the valency of metal M,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein the first and second steps are performed in a one-pot process.

14[)]. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a metal complex comprising the step of reacting a metal halide with a ligand of formula (II):



(II)

wherein each R is H or a substituent,

~~characterized in that the reaction is performed~~ in the presence of a metal-free base of sufficient strength to deprotonate the compound of formula (II).

15. (New) A method according to claim 1 wherein Hal is chlorine.

16. (New) A method according to claim 9 wherein each R is hydrogen.

17. (New) A method according to claim 12 wherein the protic solvent is ethylene glycol.